

FEBRUARY 27, 1809.

Read the first and second time, and committed to a committee of the whole House, to-morrow.

A Bill

Prohibiting for a limited time the exportation of arms, ammunition, canvas, cordage and hemp, and for encouraging the importation thereof.



1 Sec. 1. *BE it enacted by the senate and house of representatives*
2 *of the United States of America, in congress assembled,* That it shall
3 not be lawful to export from the United States or from the terri-
4 tories thereof, any cannon, muskets, pistols, bayonets, swords,
5 cutlasses, musket-balls, lead, bombs, grenadoes, gun-power, sul-
6 phur or salt-petre, canvas or sailduck of any description, common-
7 ly used for ships or vessels, cordage, cables, tarred or untarred
8 yarns made of hemp, seine, sail or sewing twine, and sheet cop-
9 per; but the exportation of the aforesaid articles is prohibited un-
10 til to the end of the next session of congress, and no longer.

1 Sec. 2. *And be it further enacted,* That any of the aforesaid ar-
 2 ticles, excepting such of them as may constitute a part of the
 3 equipment of any vessel, which, during the continuance of this
 4 prohibition, shall be found on board of any vessel in any river,
 5 port, bay or harbor within the territory of the United States, put
 6 on board with an intent to be exported from the United States or
 7 the territories thereof, shall be forfeited, and in case the value
 8 thereof shall amount to one hundred dollars, the vessel on board
 9 of which the same shall be seized, together with her tackle, apparel
 10 and furniture, shall also be forfeited: *Provided nevertheless,* that
 11 nothing in this act shall be construed to prohibit the removal or
 12 transportation of any of the articles aforesaid, from one port to
 13 another port, within the United States, or the territories thereof,
 14 in any vessel having a license as a coasting vessel, (the master,
 15 agent or owner of which shall have given bond with one or more
 16 sufficient sureties to the collector of the district from which such
 17 vessel is about to depart, in a sum double the value of such vessel
 18 and of such the said articles as may be laden on board of her, that
 19 the said articles shall be re-landed and delivered in some port of
 20 the United States, or of the territories thereof. Or to prevent the
 21 exportation of any of the above articles on public account under
 22 the direction of the president of the United States.)

1 Sec. 3. *And be it further enacted.* That if any of the articles
 2 aforesaid shall, contrary to the prohibitions of this act, be exported
 3 from the United States, or the territories thereof, the vessel in

4 which the same shall have been exported, together with her tac-
 5 kle, apparel and furniture, shall be forfeited, and the captain or
 6 master of such vessel knowingly offending in the premises, shall
 7 be liable to indictment, and upon conviction shall forfeit and pay
 8 a sum not exceeding one thousand dollars, which shall be distri-
 9 buted in like manner as is hereinafter provided as to other forfei-
 10 tures incurred under this act.

1 Sec. 4. *And be it further enacted*, That it shall be the duty of the
 2 custom-house officers, and of all persons employed in the collec-
 3 tion of the revenue, to attend to the execution of this law; and all
 4 forfeitures and penalties incurred under it, and not otherwise di-
 5 rected to be prosecuted and recovered, shall be sued for, prosecu-
 6 ted, adjudged and distributed in like manner as is provided in the
 7 act, intituled, "An act to provide more effectually for the collec-
 8 tion of the duties imposed by law on goods, wares and merchan-
 9 dize imported into the United States, and on the tonnage of ships
 10 and vessels.

1 Sec. 5. *And be it further enacted*, That all brass cannon, muskets
 2 and firelocks with bayonets suited to the same, pistols, swords and
 3 cutlasses, which shall be imported into the United States, from
 4 any foreign country, within the term of one year from and after
 5 the passing of this act, shall be free of duty; any thing in any
 6 former law to the contrary notwithstanding.